

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in this application.

Listing of the claims:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a polyvinylpyrrolidone.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the ~~aqueous-alcoholic~~ aqueous solution further comprises an aqueous-alcoholic mixture that comprises an alcohol selected from ~~among~~ methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, pentanol, hexanol, and a mixtures thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the alcohol is ethanol, n-propanol or isopropanol.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 9, wherein the ratio of alcohol to water is from 9:1 to 1:9.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the ratio of alcohol to water ~~comprises~~ is 2 parts of alcohol to 3 parts of water.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the ~~preparation~~ aqueous solution further comprises lactic acid.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the lactic acid is present in an amount from 0.5 percent by weight to 5 percent by weight, relative to the weight of the entire ~~preparation~~ solution.

Claims 15-29 (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method of hydrating brittle toenails or fingernails comprising applying to brittle toenails or fingernails ~~a pharmaceutical preparation, in the form of a solution,~~ an aqueous solution comprising:

- ~~—— a) —— nonvolatile constituents, which comprise~~
urea in an amount from ~~15~~44 percent by weight to ~~35~~69 percent by weight based on the weight of the entire solution, ~~relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation,~~ and
a hydrophilic film-forming agent~~[[,]]~~ in an amount from 15 percent by weight to 35 percent by weight based on the weight of the entire solution,
wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a compound selected from ~~among~~ acrylic/methacrylic acid ester copolymers, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl alcohols, vinyl acetate/vinylpyrrolidone copolymers, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymers, polyesters, polyester amides, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof,
and
~~—— b) —— water or an alcohol-water mixture.~~

Claims 31-44 (Canceled)

45. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the amount of the aqueous-alcoholic mixture is from 30 percent by weight to 60 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

46. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the amount of the aqueous-alcoholic mixture is from 35 percent by weight to 55 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

47. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the amount of water is from 30 percent by weight to 60 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

48. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the amount of water is from 35 percent by weight to 55 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

49. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is present in an amount from 17 percent by weight to 25 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

50. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the urea is present in an amount from 25 percent by weight to 33 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

51. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the amount of urea amount is larger than the amount of water.